



California GARDEN

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1986

One Dollar

Volume 77 Issue No. 6

ISSN 0008-1116

HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

**San Diego Floral Association Event*

October 18, 19

North County Rose Society's 20th Annual Rose Show

Plaza Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA. Sat. 1-6 p.m.; Sun. 12-4 p.m. Free. Cut rose entries from other rose societies are welcome.

October 18, 19

San Diego Orchid Society Fall "Mini" Show

Casa del Prado Room 101, Balboa Park. Sat: 12-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free.

October 18, 19

Botanical Illustrations in Water Color Show and Sale by Niki Threlkeld at the home of Grafs, 858 Mason Road (off East Vista Way), Vista, CA. Reception and refreshments both days. Noon - 5 p.m. Free.

October 21 *

Spaghetti/Meat Loaf Dinner

San Diego Floral Association Meeting with a Spaghetti/Meat Loaf Dinner. Betty Newton will discuss "Spectrum of Ground Covers and Erosion Prevention." 6:00 p.m. Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Reservations 232-5762.

October 25-26

Third Annual Art and Photography Show sponsored by Quail Gardens Docent Society, at Quail Gardens in Encinitas from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also special plant sale at Visitor's Center. Quail Botanical Gardens is on Quail Gardens Road, just north of Encinitas Boulevard and east of Highway I-5.

October 25

Guided tour through tropical fruit area of Quail Gardens in Encinitas by Carol Graham, UCCE Master Gardener 11:00 a.m. Meet at Visitor's Center. Free. Parking fee \$1.00.

October 29, November 5, 19 *

American Contemporary Flower Arranging with Adrienne Green, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Wed: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Register early with Marie Walsh 298-5182. Classes limited to 20 persons.

November 1, 2

Tropical Fish Aquarium Show

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Sat: 12-6 p.m., Sun. 9-4:30 p.m. Free.

November 8 *

Saturday tour to Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Lunch at Farmers Market. \$20.50. \$1.00 discount to Floral Members. Call Jerry Ray for reservations 232-2661.

November 8

California Macadamia Society's Annual Field Day at Tom and Cindy Cooper's farm, 1378 Willow Glen Road, Fallbrook. 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Nut cracking demonstration. Admission \$5.00 per person.

November 13

The New San Diego Bulb Society Meeting at Stanley Park Recreation Center, Governor Drive, University City 7:00 p.m.

November 14

Christmas Fantasy - Miniature Museum of San Diego. Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Held at La Jolla Woman's Club. Call 454-4959 for information.

November 22

California Rare Fruit Growers Annual Meeting at Los Angeles Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Program "In Celebration of the Mango and the Persimmon". Grafting demonstrations, fruit and literature displays, tasting table. Free. Entrance fee for Arboretum.

November 23

Sumi-e Painting and Ikebana Show

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Sunday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Free.

December 2

La Jolla Garden Club's Annual Holiday Tea, La Jolla Woman's Club, 715 Silverado, La Jolla, CA. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Flower demonstrations, table decorations, entertainment, sale of baked goods and boutique items, raffles and door prizes. Refreshments served. Public is invited. \$3.00 tax-deductible admission.

December 7

Christmas in Flowerland Bazaar and Plant Sale at Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sale includes plants, crafts, gourmet, gem and mineral items. Refreshments served. Free admission and free parking. Info: P.O. Box 5, Encinitas, CA 92024 or phone (619) 436-3036 or 222-7052.

December 5, 6, 7 *

San Diego Floral Association's Christmas on the Prado - A TREE MEANS CHRISTMAS

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, California Garden Magazines, Food, Hot spiced tea for sale, and Boutiques. Fri: 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.; Sat: noon-9 p.m.; Sun: noon-4 p.m. Free.

January 2, 1987 *

Floral Tour to Pan Asia Museum and view Rose Parade Floats in Pasadena. Call Jerry Ray (619) 232-2661 for reservations.

January 6-9, 1987

Fifth International Garden Trade Fair (VTB) at the RAI Exhibition Centre, Amsterdam, Holland. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily; January 7 - 10:00 a.m.-9 p.m.

January 31, 1987 *

Floral Design Luncheon, Hilton Hotel, San Diego. Reservations call 232-5762.

February 17, 1987 *

Floral Bus Tour to Camp Pendleton to see Ranch House and Chapel. Lunch at Officer's Club included. Call Jerry Ray (619) 232-2661 for reservations.

February 17, 1987 *

San Diego Floral Association's Meeting includes chicken dinner and talk on "Aphrodisiacs in the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 191)



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FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION BY MARJ MASTRO

Marj Mastro has contributed many illustrations for California Garden.
She is retiring from San Diego Schools this year.

BACK COVER ILLUSTRATION BY IRINA GRONBORG

Irina Gronborg is an artist who lives in Solana Beach where she has created an exotic garden. Her botanical drawings may be seen each month in San Diego HOME/GARDEN magazine. She teaches drawing at Grossmont College.

The deadline for articles and events for the Jan./Feb. 1987 issue is Nov. 21, 1986.

For only \$25.00 a year, a professional business relating to horticulture can become a member of San Diego Floral Association and be listed in each issue of California Garden magazine as a "Professional Affiliate". This listing would include name, address and telephone number of the business. It is a wonderful opportunity to reach gardeners.

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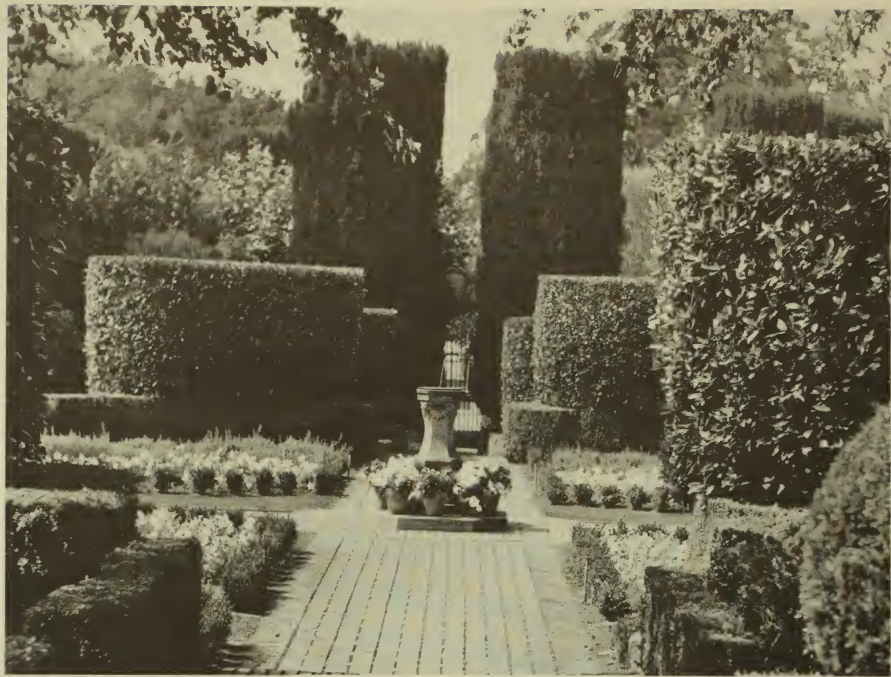
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(CONTINUED ON PAGE 188)



FAMED GARDEN AT FILOLI — Photo by Carol A. Ivie

Filoli

16 Acres of Mature Gardens

Just 25 Miles from San Francisco

By Cheryl Hedgpeth

Filoli is located on the eastern slope of the Coast Range Mountains with sweeping views in every direction.

William Bourne II chose the setting because of its resemblance to his beloved Muckross Estate in County Kerry, Ireland. Bourne continued the theme by planting over 300 Irish Yews, *Taxa baccata* 'Stricta', cuttings he brought from Muckross.

The garden is on a north-south axis slowly rising toward the estate. A visitor's first glimpse of the mansion is highlighted by the many species of Magnolia, including the spectacular 'Strybing White', *Magnolia Campbellii*, with its large white blooms in early spring.

The house, an outstanding example of Georgian architecture, was designed by Willis Polk. It is one of the few in California that remains intact in its original setting. Planned by Bruce Porter, the gardens were planted under the supervision of Isabella Worn. When Filoli was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Roth in 1937, the original plan was continued. In 1975, the estate was donated to the National Trust. The gardens are now tended by staff gardeners, volunteers and horticultural students.

Surrounding the house are the many *Taxa baccata*, hundred-year-old California Live Oaks, *Quercus agrifolia*, and in front, some beautiful silvery-blue Atlas Cedars, *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glaucu'.

TOURING THE GARDEN

The gardens are made up of separate areas each with its own distinct character.

Our visit is timed to take advantage of the spectacular rhododendrons, azaleas and spring flowering shrubs.

With the promise of spring, we begin our tour on a walk which leads to the Sunken Garden. The eye is immediately arrested by a profusion of wisteria, covering the terrace balustrade. There are several New Zealand Tea-trees, *Leptospermum scoparium*, and two Chilean Myrtle, *Luma apiculata*, which bloom with a multitude of fragrant, white flowers in early August.

A lily pool is nearby and a beautiful example of Sunburst Locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Sunburst'. Two Camperdown Elms, *Ulmus glabra*, thrive next to a brick wall, which is supporting a climbing Hydrangea, *Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*.

A focal point at the edge of the Sunken Garden is the vine covered, Italianate Tea House.

The formal Walled Garden is completely enclosed by an old brick wall and contains several distinct areas. The most striking is a Chartres Cathedral Garden. Edged in boxwood, with bright annuals, it represents the stained glass windows of Chartres Cathedral. Across the lawn and pool is a lovely view of Sasanqua Camellia beds.

The Woodland Garden, a natural environment is a delightful surprise with its display of camellias, azaleas and ferns. Our tour continues past the Yew Allee and a hillside covered with daffodils in early spring. Close by is a cutting garden providing flowers for arrangements in the house.

The Rose Garden is enough to encourage a return visit in the summer. Filoli houses over 500 roses in a variety of colors.

Finally, a traditional English Knot Garden,



planted with *Santolina chamaecyparissus* var. *nana*, *Teucrium chamaedrys* and *Myrtus communis*.

Filoli Gardens are worth visiting at any time of the year. There is always something new to delight the eye!

The house and gardens are open for tours mid-February through mid-November, Tuesday - Saturday. Advance reservations are necessary and there is a \$6 charge. For more information call (415) 366-4640.

Cheryl Hedgpeth is the Director of Sterling Garden Tours. She is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, National Trust and several local garden clubs.

California Fig

(Ficus)

By Ruby Law

The fig is, perhaps, the grandest fruit tree of California. Because of a fig's appearance, some think it is purely subtropical. The large tropical-looking leaves and a gnarled branching pattern make the fig an attractive addition to the garden.

The fig is the only fruit where the bloom is inside the fruit and becomes a part of the fruit. Its nectar, pollen, seeds, and pulp are encased in a skin, which can be peeled like a banana, exposing a most nutritious and delicious fruit.

Most commercial orchards are in the interior valleys of northern California. Figs can be grown wherever temperatures do not drop below 15 F. Although varieties differ in adaptation, very young trees may be injured by early or late frosts, but can be easily protected.

Figs can be pruned severely and kept small, as low as 5 feet. When trees are pruned this way

the first crop may be sacrificed. If a tree is allowed to develop it attains a tremendous spread — up to 90 feet or more. The only serious predators for the fruit are birds.

Figs are readily trained into an informal espalier. The gardener's wishes determine the style.

Figs are known to be good container growers, but this restricts their growth somewhat. The advantage of container growing is watering, feeding and moving, for climate control.

As with other deciduous trees, figs will produce higher quality fruit with regular irrigation and applying nitrogen during winter months at a rate of 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of actual nitrogen per tree, per year. Steer manure is a good source of nitrogen for yards and gardens, with sufficient water.

Deck The Halls... and Christmas Trees Too!

"SHOP TALK from POP LARSEN"
Builder's Emporium

Let's talk about Christmas trees. For a few weeks out of the year, your tree is the focal point of your home, for entertaining friends and relatives. Properly selecting and decorating, your tree puts much of the "cheer" into the holiday season.

There's an important procedure you should follow before starting to decorate your tree, it's called shaping. A well shaped tree not only looks better, but is easier to decorate. Always take time to shape your tree, making it symmetrical and even all the way around.

Even with artificial trees, the direction sheet will often include instructions for shaping the tree. If you buy a live tree, use pruning shears to get the shape you desire.

The best-looking Christmas trees result from having a plan for decorating. You can highlight a color or color-combination. You can dramatize the tree with the colors you choose. For best results, your trim should be simple, but distinctive.. Here's a traditional way to make your Christmas tree a smashing success:

Pay attention to the sequence: (1) lights; (2) garland; (3) tree trim; (4) glass ornaments; and (5) tree top and skirts.

The following table can be used as a guide to help you determine the amount of materials you'll need this year:

| Tree Height | Number of Miniature Lights | Length of Garland | Novelty Tree Trim | Glass Ornaments |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2" | 40 | 14'-2" wide | 12 pcs | 15 pcs |
| 3' | 80 | 30'-2" wide | 18 pcs | 24 pcs |
| 4" | 100-120 | 48'-2" or 3 | 24 pcs | 36 pcs |
| 6' | 200-240 | 72'-3" wide | 36 pcs | 48 pcs |
| 7' | 240-320 | 84'-3" or 4 | 60 pcs | 72 pcs |

This guide can be used for either live or artificial trees. If your tree is eight feet tall (live), you might want to follow these dimensions: 320-360 miniature light bulbs; 96 feet of garland 3" or 4" wide; 72 pieces of novelty tree trim; and 96 pieces of glass ornaments.

To install your light sets, start at the top of the tree and work down towards the bottom. This way the last plug will be near the floor, and close to the wall socket. Use an extension cord rather than taking a chance on putting undue stress on the tree stand. Place each miniature light near the outside end of the branch, so that the lights will provide a pleasing outline of the tree.

If you use lights with reflectors, the added brightness will allow you to reduce the total number of lights. For greatest visual impact, always use

the same style of lights throughout the tree. This isn't the time for "mix and match."

Tinsel garland not only outlines the shape of your tree - it also forms the framework for the rest of the trim. Begin draping the garland at the bottom of the tree, twisting it around the end of each branch to keep it from slipping off during the opening of gifts, etc.

After the lights and garland are in place, it's time for hanging the feature items (your favorite pieces). The best place is at points "crested" by the garland, which gives your tree a distinctive consistency of appearance. Always use ornament hooks - otherwise you're heading for a fall!

Next, add coordinated decorations in each area formed by the garland "swags." If your decorations follow a certain color or style, your tree will have a theme - a total look that tells a story about you.

Now scatter your glass ornaments in coordinated colors, deep into the branches. Keep the largest ornament toward the bottom of the tree and the smallest at the top. Now you're dramatizing the theme and taking full advantage of the tree's size and shape.

"Top" your tree with an ornament that matches the novelty decorations or glass ornaments. Finish off your decorating job with a tree skirt that highlights the major color(s) of the decorations.



Christmas Cactus

By Helen Barkdoll

Billy had his usual "DO NOT ENTER" sign posted on his bedroom closet door. I wondered what surprise he had in there for this holiday.

Outside, cold gray clouds threatened to bring new snow. The biting wind howled, dashing fragile snowflakes into undulating drifts. Trees, houses and lawns were mounds of white.

Inside, the Christmas tree glowed with colored lights and hand made ornaments. All of the presents had been opened. The children were excited. Especially Billy. He had a mischievous twinkle in his eye. He stood up and waved his arms.

"Listen everyone," he clapped his hands and bowed deeply. Although only in the third grade, he had mastered the art of attention getting.

Susie sat up straight and cocked her head at her older brother and asked, "What are you up to now?"

He made another bow, wrinkled his nose at his sister, then scampered to his bedroom closet. Carefully he picked up his present.

"Here, Mom." His eyes were bright and shining as his pudgy little fingers held a flowering Christmas Cactus. It was wrapped in plastic and tied with a curly yellow ribbon. The sparkling pink flowers cascaded like a brilliant waterfall, mirroring the highlights in his beaming face. I smiled and laughed and hugged him, fighting back tears of joy.

Now Bill is grown up and married. For their first Christmas I gave Bill's wife a cutting of that marvelous Christmas Cactus I had received so many years ago.

This story illustrates some of the many attributes of the versatile Christmas Cactus. This plant, often called Zygocactus, Claw Cactus, or Holiday Cactus, is collected for its beautiful flowers. The petals have a wondrous satiny sheen that practically glows. Some colors are iridescent. Individual flowers, which can be as large as 3 inches long and 2 inches wide, may last for weeks and the plant can be in bloom for several months with a succession of flowers. Best known and loved is the ever popular White Christmas, followed by the many different shades of scarlet. There are purples and pinks, oranges and salmons. Several are bi-colored with delightful combinations. Most have a charming magenta colored ring in the throat of the blossom.



The newest creation is a Cobia hybrid called Gold Charm. Years of crossing have produced a magnificent blossom of sparkling gold. Being temperature sensitive, the flowers develop the deeper and truer color when kept above 55 degrees F. Below that they are lighter colored with a touch of pink. The flowers are huge and the segments are large.

Due to its manageable size, Billy found it made a marvelous gift. A blooming sized plant can be as small and compact as an African Violet. The stem segments are a decorator shade of dark olive green with a shining gloss that makes them look like they are polished. The unusually shaped flowers come in many delightful colors that will complement any decor. A plant in full bloom can make a spectacular centerpiece.

Billy probably bought his plant locally. Christmas Cacti are readily available at the nurseries, the flower section of the super-markets, the chain drug stores, and the florists. Treated as seasonal

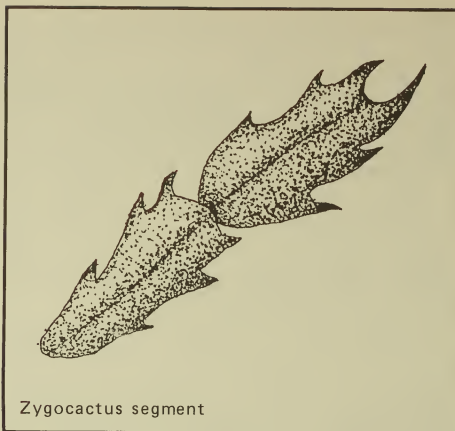
merchandise, they are in the marketplace from Thanksgiving (the early blooming varieties) through the year-end holidays. After that, they are harder to find, and one has to go to a cactus specialty nursery or to mail order them. Many of the mail order nurseries have special varieties that can not be obtained elsewhere. For something out of the ordinary you may have to send away for them. All of the plants I have sent for have arrived in excellent condition, and have been strong and healthy.

Another virtue that Billy probably appreciated is the fact that Christmas Cacti are not expensive. Because they are easy to propagate, ship well, and have a long shelf life, the cost of a potted bouquet is well within the allowance of almost everyone.

Christmas Cacti are very popular in Europe, where they are window plants that brighten up the long, cold, and dark winters. In Southern California they can be porch and patio plants. Many people have shade houses where they grow several different varieties along with companion plants such as Epiphyllum, Easter Cacti, Rat-tails, Hoyas and Rhipsalis. In colder climates they make delightful house plants or brighten the greenhouse during a season when little else flowers.

Their scientific name is Schlumbergera, and they come from the rain-forests deep in the mountains of Brazil. They are tropical cacti and should be treated differently from the spiny terrestrial cactus. Desert cactus like it hot, sunny and dry. Tropical cactus like it cool, shady and humid. They like lots of water. They like rich peatmoss soil and take to heavy 0-10-10 fertilizing to promote blooming. Moderately cool temperatures suit them best, 50 to 70 degrees F. They will not tolerate a hard frost, nor do they like temperatures over 90°.

Crab. The shape of the crab claw resembles the Zygocactus segment.



When Billy hid his Mother's present in the closet, little did he realize nurserymen did the same thing. Schlumbergera is a plant with a definite photoperiod. They bloom during short days. In order to promote early flowering, the plants must be in the dark from 5 p.m. until 8 a.m. Houseplants should not have artificial light at night until after the buds have formed. Once the change has been made from the vegetative cycle to the reproductive (or flowering) cycle, and buds have developed, the plant can be put back on the dining room table. Those lucky people who can grow them outside in a shade-house need only see to it that a night light does not shine on them.

Christmas Cacti are very popular because their care and culture is so easy. They like bright indirect light, which makes them ideal for house and window plants, preferably an eastern exposure. Keep moist, never wet or soggy. Fertilize lightly the year round with half strength of a balanced fertilizer. Add a fertilizer for bloom in August through October. Keep the plants cool during this time.

And as the illustration shows, the plants are great as gifts, both to receive and to give. They are easily started from segment cuttings. Gently twist or cut off the segments. Some prefer a Y shaped piece, others take a small branch. Even a single segment will do. Dip the cut end in a powdered rooting hormone and let the cuttings dry for a day. Plant one half inch deep in loose, fast draining potting soil. Keep moist and humid. In a few weeks roots will start to form and soon a fresh reddish colored segment will appear, the start of a new plant or a living gift.

Christmas Cacti also have a very long lifespan. The individual plants can last from generation to generation, being handed down from relative to relative. Clones can be kept indefinitely by

repeated cuttings. New hybrids are created by cross pollination and planting the resulting seeds. Growing *Schlumbergera* from seed is easy and can be done in as little room as a plastic shoe box. Once the typical adult *Schlumbergera* segment appears, it should be cut off and started as a cutting. Removed from its juvenile roots, this cutting will behave the same as a regular cutting and produce flowers during the short days of winter.

Plants can become as large as three feet in diameter if allowed to continue to grow unchecked. Most people prune their plants right after flowering, which is also the correct time to take cuttings. Those unbalanced branches now become gift plants or replacement plants for those which have grown too straggly or woody.

Slightly under a hundred different varieties exist today, yet hybridizers are feverishly working to produce new shapes, sizes and colors. It is an exciting plant genera to watch as new species recently have been discovered that will introduce important new genes into the geneticist's pool of characteristics.

Plant-lovers beware! Once you have fallen under the spell of this delightful flower, you will want to collect at least a few of each color. Then you will be in the position to make new plants, new friends and even new family traditions.

Helen Barkdoll is an active hybridizer of holiday cactus and is currently writing a book on holiday cactus. Photo by Robert Barkdoll is a picture of 'White Christmas'. Two illustrations by Dana Barkdoll show how the shape of the zygocactus segment is similar to that of a crab claw. Both have same angle and shape.



PHOTO BY JOANN GOULD

Ethel Hoyt and Marie Walsh in Floral Library
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Christmas Poinsettia

By Tineke Wilders



One of Charles Dickens' most famous characters was Scrooge, the old, miserly accountant in **A Christmas Carol**. Scrooge gained notoriety for always referring to Christmas-time as "a lot of humbug."

But Scrooge probably would not have uttered those now famous words if he had known that flowering plants could brighten up his rather dull and boring existence.

Flowering plants should be part of everyone's Christmas season, because they give us some much-needed colour during the long and cold winter months.

Undeniably, the most popular and traditional symbol of the Yuletide season is the **Poinsettia** (pronounced, "poin-set-a"). It is difficult to imagine a Christmas without this beautiful plant. **Euphorbia pulcherrima** is the botanical name of the Poinsettia, **pulcherrima** being Latin for "very beautiful."

After sending some plants to his home in Greenville, South Carolina, he discovered they did very well in his greenhouse. Soon afterwards, his exciting discovery was distributed to other horticultural friends and colleagues. And that was the start of the North American introduction of the Poinsettia, appropriately named in English after its North-American finder, Dr. Poinsett.

In its native habitat of the Mexican jungle, the Poinsettia is a tall shrub, growing as high as 13 feet. As a result of sixty years of patient research, cultivation and experimentation by plant-breeder Paul Ecke Sr. (nicknamed in the trade "Mr. Poinsettia") at his Poinsettia Ranch in Encinitas, California, we now have the familiar potted sturdy specimen, one-to-two feet tall.

How does the commercial grower manage to "tame" this jungle dweller and get it to bloom at the right time? The Poinsettia is a "photo-periodic" plant, meaning, its flowering is triggered by the precise combination of light and darkness for a period of 70 consecutive days. During this time, the plant receives each day 10 hours of daylight and 14 hours of complete darkness, at a temperature of between 16° and 18°C. Following this strict schedule, the plant is guaranteed to bloom before Christmas, just in time for many stores to sell millions of them.

Poinsettias come in a variety of colours: the familiar red, but also pink, coral, white, salmon-orange, even a marbled and a bi-coloured variation. Sizes are from one bloom per plant in a 4-inch pot, to the traditional three-blooms per plant in a 6 to 8-inch pot.

This branching type generally makes the most satisfactory houseplant. A novelty item is the standard table-tree, reaching a height of 28-36 inches, as well as a mini version of 20-26 inches tall. Another recent introduction is the hanging basket, several plants together, three different colours in one container, which not only can be hung off the floor, but can also serve as a graceful table plant. A local nursery has planted the so-called "poinsettia-pans" — a pink, red and white plant in an 8-inch, 10-inch or 12-inch pot, as well as a combination of a red Poinsettia with a white Mum in a 7" pot.

Poinsettias in bloom need full daylight to maintain their best appearance. Keep the plant near a window with lots of natural light, but out of the direct sun. Naturally, they can be used anywhere in the house or office for holiday decoration, but insufficient light will shorten the life of the green leaves. Drafts or excess heat from appliances, radiators or ventilating ducts should be avoided. Place the plant high enough — away from traffic and out of reach of small children and house pets. Protect your wooden furniture by placing the plant in or on top of a waterproof container or saucer.

Check the plant for water every day. It requires a slightly moist condition, not too wet and never bone-dry. Check half an hour after watering and dispose of any excess water which has collected in the saucer.

The ideal temperature is around 19°C by day and around 15°C at night. Never expose the plant to temperatures below 9°C, which means the plant should be weather-wrapped for transportation from store to the house.

To maintain its rich green colour, regularly use a water-soluble plant food with a formula of 20-20-20.

Watch for sudden leaf drop. This could indicate too much water, a cold draft or too much variation in temperature.

Your Poinsettia may be pinched or pruned back during the growing season to control size and symmetry.



Holly

By California Association of Nurserymen

As the holidays approach, all of us begin to think about what we can use for decoration, inside as well as outside. The large stores give us the ideas with their plastic imitations of greenery but there's nothing like the "real" thing.

In this instance, the glossy leaves of holly and the beauty of its berries stir our memories and the desire to have our own living supply of decorations. There really is no reason, no matter where you live, to not find a holly that will grow in your garden. Over the years, an infinite number of hybrids have been introduced that will grow in the extremes of the hotlands or the colder areas.

Holly can now be found in varieties that range in size from under a foot in height to trees growing up to 50 feet, as well as every size in between. Berries can be big or small, bright or dull, red, yellow, black or orange and the plants can be self fertile or not. Leaves, too, can range from tiny to large, green to variegated, with or without spines, and glossy to dull.

The upper leaves of the holly tree do not have spines.



Most hollies require a male and female plant in order to produce berries though certain varieties are self fertile. Now is an excellent time to shop as you can easily see just what each type of holly plant produces.

All hollies prefer the sun unless they are in the hot inland valleys where some shade is needed. They like good drainage and soil that is on the acid side. The roots are not fond of cultivation so the use of mulch to keep the weeds down is helpful. They have normal water requirements though many can be rather drought tolerant as they age.

Among the more widely known Hollies, the 'Wilson' ranks high as does the 'Chinese Burford' holly. Both of these are self-fertile. The hardest of the hollies is the hybrid, *Ilex meserveae*. This plant is dense with purple stems, glossy spiny, deep green almost blue leaves and a heavy crop of scarlet berries. While this hybrid is not self fertile, the 'Blue Stallion', 'Blue Prince' or 'China Boy' are the pollinators and 'Blue Angel', 'China Girl' and 'Blue Princess' are the prolific berry plants. They will vary in size from 6 ft. to 12 ft. These beauties make excellent hedge or barrier plants.

Though most of us grew up with the English or Christmas holly as the plant we knew, over 25 hybrids have been grown commercially. The plants can even have silver edged leaves or silver in the center or gold edges or gold centers. Some have a weeping characteristic or like the porcupine holly have twisted super spiny leaves. Whatever your needs, you will find a holly to suit your taste and while it serves your yard as a focal point, its trimmings can give your home that festive look that speaks of warmth and care . . .



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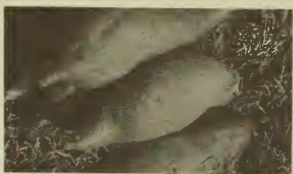


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The Old Sweet Potato Patch



By Charles T. Robinson

One of my favorite vegetables has long been the sweet potato or yam. However, I did not know the difference between a yam and a sweet potato until very recently.

Susan Swift was so kind to give me a little booklet published by the "Sweet Potato Council of the U.S., Inc." which contained some very enlightening information about sweet potatoes and yams, as well as many delicious recipes on the use of sweet potatoes. According to the Sweet Potato Council, the potato that is dry is usually called a sweet potato, while the potato that is moist is called yam. The name yam is derived from the African word "Nyami" which refers to the starchy edible root of a different genus of plant "*dioscorea*". The native American Indian called the sweet potato "batata" or "padada". The scientific name is "*Ipomoea batatas*."

Not only is the yam good to eat, it is very high in vitamin A, C, iron, and other minerals, and a 3½ oz. sweet potato contains only 141 calories. After many years of growing sweet potatoes from slips obtained from potatoes bought from the supermarket, I tried to buy slips from seed companies in other parts of the country. The most recent attempt was from the Steele Plant Company in Gleason, Tennessee. After receiving my request for sweet potato slips, they very politely informed me that they could not ship sweet potato slips to California. When I shared this information with Vincent Lazaneo, he gave me the name and address of a company in Livingston, CA, called the House of Alvernaz. I immediately sent a letter to Mr. Alvernaz inquiring about sweet potato slips. Mr. Alvernaz replied to my letter and he indicated that they had three varieties of sweet potato slips available, and he recommended the Jewell over the Garnet (red) and the Jersey (yellow), because the Jewell is the best producer and keeper. In addition, the Jewell is the favorite of Joe Carcione, "The Green Grocer." So I ordered 200 slips.

When they arrived, I was very pleasantly surprised at the size of the slips; they were at least 14" in length. The slips that I grew in the past many years were only about 4 to 6" in length. Prior to the arrival of the sweet potato slips I read the University of California Publication

"Growing Sweet Potatoes, Leaflet #2804," to make certain that I was doing the right things.

I prepared the soil by running the roto tiller over it several times, then spaced the rows 4' apart and hilled the beds about 12" high. I then mixed 5 pounds of 6-20-20 fertilizer per 65 foot rows. Leaflet #2804 called for 4 to 6 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer per 100 foot rows. Bi-wall tubing was used for irrigation and the sweet potato slips were planted 12 inches apart, 8 inches deep. Planting date was May 26, 1983.

Then I thought all I had to do was stand back and watch them grow and keep the weeds out. Unfortunately, that was not all I had to do. A family of gophers decided to move into my sweet potato patch, and this they did without my knowledge or permission. By the time I discovered them, they had eaten several potatoes; that is, just the lower quarter of the potatoes.

It was very difficult to trap the gophers because the dirt mounds would be under the potato vines and it was difficult to dig so close to the potato vines. However, I was able to trap three gophers and stop the thievery. On September 27, I started the harvest and continued until November 10, with a grand total of 783 pounds.

I am now in the process of tilling the soil in preparation for the next try at the Old Sweet Potato Patch.

Charles T. Robinson is a Master Gardener who is active in the Fern and Rare Fruit Growers Clubs.

Editor's Note: Try a Sweet Potato Pie for the holidays.

SWEET POTATO CHIFFON PIE by Minerva Glover

3 egg yolks, beat lightly
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup evaporated milk
1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp pie spices
1 cup mashed sweet potatoes
1/2 cup boiling water
1 pkg orange jello
1 tsp vanilla
3 egg whites
2 tbsp granulated sugar
1 - 9-inch baked pie shell

Combine first 6 ingredients. Cook in top of double boiler at least 10 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from fire and add the jello dissolved in 1/2 cup boiling water. Add vanilla. Chill until mixture is almost set, then beat until light and fluffy. Beat egg whites with granulated sugar. Fold into above mixture. Pour into baked pie shell and put in refrigerator to set.

The Oriental Fruit Fly

By California Department of Food and Agriculture

THE DANGER

ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY is one of the most harmful of all fruit flies. It spread from southeast Asia to the Pacific Islands, and has become a major pest in Hawaii.

These flies attack over 230 different fruit, including apples, avocados, bananas, cucumbers, grapefruit, grapes, lemons, peaches, pears, plums, peppers, tomatoes and walnuts. The female fly deposits 10 to 100 eggs under the skin of the fruit. Maggots hatch and tunnel through the pulp, turning it into a rotten mass.


The Oriental fruit fly can multiply and spread rapidly. Adult flies are very active and can move several miles a day. Females can lay up to 1,500 eggs in their lifetime.

If the Oriental fruit fly became established in California, backyard trees and commercial orchards would soon become infested, resulting in:

- a federal quarantine on most California produce
- higher prices for fruit
- maggoty fruit for the gardener and shopper
- massive increases in the use of pesticide

HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY

The adult fly is slightly larger than a housefly and is very colorful, with a yellow-striped abdomen and yellowish legs. The white maggots can be found burrowing through fruit. Infested fruit does not always look damaged from the outside but may take on a brown, mottled appearance as the maggots feed.



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WHAT IS BEING DONE IN CALIFORNIA

Federal, state, and county agricultural agencies work cooperatively to keep infested fruit from entering California. Fruit from infested countries must be fumigated before it enters the state, but frequently untreated fruit is carried in by the mail and by passengers. Flies entering this way may be detected in insect traps, but often it is too late to stop an infestation. Infested properties must be treated with insecticides to prevent the spread of this damaging pest.

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What's New In Floral Design?

Cactus and Succulents

Photographs and Text by Sean Minogue

Florists and floral designers are always looking for new flowers and foliage to add to their works. Newly hybridized flowers are sought and examined. When a new arrangement element is discovered and accepted by the trade, results can be instantaneous. Recent years have seen, for example, the universal acceptance of protea, eucalyptus branches and even geometric models in floral designs. The search for these new elements and concepts is an unending one.

At a recent symposium of the American Institute of Floral Design (AIFD), held in conjunction with the National Florists Transworld Delivery (FTD) Convention in San Diego, nearly two thousand floral designers got a look at the very latest discovery.

What element attracted the most attention? What new plant form did the designers cheer? Cacti and Succulents.

AIFD designer Bob Bigham presented ten arrangements that used these unusual plants mainly because of their versatility.

"Color is one of the most exciting features we find in the world of succulents", according to Bigham. "Although usually regarded as grey



and lifeless, succulents come in incredible colors, ranging from pinks, yellows, blues, red-oranges and purples through a full range of greens."

After the program, attendees crowded around the arrangements for a closer look. Some were attracted by the beauty of the designs, but everyone left with a new respect for the advantages of the plants, as they relate to the floral trade. The most important of these being the durability of succulents and their ability to survive extended periods of time away from water. Another practical aspect to succulents is the ability to ship them without roots or soil, lowering their shipping costs.

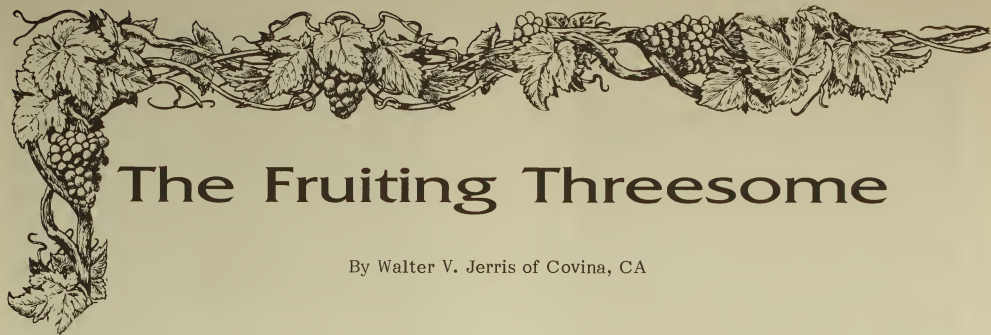
Bigham was assisted in his presentation by Terry Hollembeck of Altman Specialty Plants in San Marcos. Hollembeck advised the group about the basics of succulent care and handling (including a brief lesson on avoiding cactus spines).

The designs featured many unusual plant combinations! *Notocactus* and lilies, *euphorbia* and *echeverias*, agaves and maple branches, *crassula* and dried agave blooms joined with ginger. One all-succulent arrangement used *astrophytum*, *notocactus scopia cristata*, *mammillaria plumosa* and *cephalocereus senilis*.

Designs seen at this symposium included the very traditional as well as Ikebana and Native American styles. Adds Bigham, "The architectural and geometric growth structure make succulents a natural choice."



Sean Minogue is Editor of the EPI News published monthly by the San Diego Epiphyllum Society.



The Fruiting Threesome

By Walter V. Jerris of Covina, CA

Were I to ask almost anyone which fruits were most missed and longed for as much as the flesh pots of Egypt when the Israelites fled Egypt and wandered through the wilderness, most people would answer incorrectly.

First, there was the fruit used mostly as juice, jelly and wine, but not eaten fresh, — the grape. Artificial and natural occurring varieties are now in the hundreds. Many that were popular and cultivated in the past, have disappeared, or are scarcely remembered. Many cultivated varieties were lost in Europe about the turn of the century when a fatal root fungus killed and decimated almost all of the grapes. The revival of the grape industry in Europe is owed to the grafting of untold millions of grapes on to fungus resistant North American root stock.

Many of the early grapes had very tough skins and most of us can remember the expression of vulgar luxury "Peel me a grape". Today new grapes appear on the commercial market almost every year. In our jaded 20th century, preference is given to seedless, tender skinned types, even if the crispness, juiciness, flavor, and aroma are sacrificed.

Many of us can still remember the heady, musky sweetness and aroma of the 'muscat' grape, the aroma and sweetness of the 'Eastern concord grape'. Those lucky ones of us who went into the woods of the Midwest and East in the Fall to pick the wild grapes recall that they were small and seedy, but very sweet, and one bunch would fill a room with its aroma. Today, all too frequently, the markets sell grapes that were picked before they were mature, and they lack both sweetness and aroma. Conversely, grapes are picked when too ripe, and by the time the customer is presented them for purchase, the grapes are falling off from the bunches and many are starting to spoil. When you raise your own, you can pick at the peak of maturity and the sweetness, aroma, and keeping quality can be assured.

Grapes can be grown as free standing, or supported on a three-wire support with cordon pruning. One of the most popular methods is to train them on to a pergola (arbor), or trellis so

that one can enjoy their shade during the hot summer months and their hanging bunches of fruit in the fall.

As grapes are deep-rooted, they are water thrifty, and require a minimum amount of fertilizer. Most grape leaves turn a brilliant yellow in the fall after the first light frost and onset of cool nights. Some leaves even have multi-colors of orange, yellow, green, and bronze before they drop.

Being deciduous, when used on an arbor on the southern exposure of a house, they provide shade when needed in the summer, and after the leaves fall, allow the sun to help warm the house in the winter — truly a versatile fruit.

The fig is a tree that can be pruned heavily, restrained in both height and in breadth. It makes an excellent large container selection. It is economical, being both water and fertilization thrifty. The large leaves are dark green and dull on the top side and a lighter green underneath. The tree form, if left uncontrolled, is from narrow to vertical to broad and spreading, and can be of a small, medium, or large growth habit. Even when dormant, the silver gray trunk and branches are attractive. Many people have never eaten a tree ripened fresh fig.

Following are listed a number of figs and some of their characteristics:

Honey Fig is a medium sized fig, very prolific, and when tree ripened, they are so full of fig honey that it oozes out of the ostium, or fig eye.

One of the most well known and familiar figs that is sold fresh is the Brown Turkey. Unless you have experienced eating a tree ripened freshly picked fig from your own tree, any previous samples will only have hinted as to the potential fine flavor that you will experience. Brown Turkey figs have a very tender skin, and when ripe, do not store or ship well. Consequently, most Brown Turkey figs are picked before maturity to reduce spoilage prior to sale.

Another excellent, fine tasting fig that consistently produces heavy crops of high quality fruit is the Excell. This is a medium sized fig with

yellow firm skin and sweet amber flesh. It is resistant to bruising, and can be canned as well as be made into jam, or eaten fresh.

Other favorites of mine are Black Mission, White King (or King), Tena, Conadria, White Genoa, Jelly, and the green skinned bright red fleshed Ventura which also does well near the coast with less heat.

Most figs are very heavy producers of fruit. The fruiting season, unlike many other fruit trees, usually extends from late June until frost and cold nights. The heaviest production is usually through the month of August to mid-September.

We have dried, frozen, canned (except Brown Turkey), and made jam and preserves every year with our figs.

Figs are pest free, except for Japanese beetles, ants and birds. The growth and fruiting method is such that at the axel of each leaf is a potential fig. Figs usually produce the heaviest and are the sweetest where high summer heat is available during fruiting. The winter chilling requirements are minimal and most any area in California is a reasonable candidate for the production of quality fruit for home use.

As can be seen in just these three candidates, the rewards of planting less well-known fruits in your garden area, or even for landscaping, can be significant. The delights of interesting tree forms, spring color, attractive foliage, and fruit should warrant serious consideration for any landscape.

Number two is the Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*), a fruit known for thousands of years in the Middle East. It is said that Muhammad said, "Eat the pomegranate, for it purges the system of envy and hatred". The usual method of eating the fruit is to break it, or cut it into sections and individually separate the grains, each of which contains juice pulp and an elongated flat seed. The pulp and juice are delightfully subacid in flavor. This laborious method of eating the fruit is what Muhammad must have had in mind when he made his famous quote. Like the apple, the pomegranate has six distinct flavors, but in most of the older varieties, the bitter astringent membranes forestalled crushing the fruit to get at the pulp and juice without affecting the flavor. In the more recent developed varieties, this membrane has been reduced in astringency (i.e. Fleishman, etc.), so that the following procedure can be used to obtain the juice conveniently and uniquely:

- 1) Store the fruit in a cool dry area until the skin becomes leathery and tight.
- 2) Take the fruit and roll it under the palm of your hand against a smooth hard surface, breaking the fruit cells. When completed, the fruit will be limp and provide no or little resistance when squeezed in your hand. Experimentation will best reveal when the fruit is ready.
- 3) Either use a lemon juice extraction tool, or as a novel alternate, punch a hole at the stem end about 3/16 to 1/4 inches in diameter and insert

a large diameter ice cream soda straw. Squeeze the fruit and sip at will. Your kids will love this way of using the fruit, or it can be used in an adult party. The lemon extraction tool will yield juice for use for ices, mixed drinks, or jelly.

The pomegranate can be trained into a multi-trunked small tree, but will require a lot of attention as its natural growth habit is to regularly send out new shoots from the roots and become a thick bush. The pomegranate produces fruit on second year wood, and these branches will often produce fruit for 2 to 3 years before ceasing to produce further fruit. Judicious pruning of older branches will open the tree to more sunlight and keep the fruit coming. It is apparent that excess heavy pruning will limit fruit production, but heading back can be performed regularly to keep the plant in control without significant loss of fruit production.

The tree stays dormant until mid-spring, then in late spring, the tree will be covered with ruffled multi-petaled bright orange blossoms. These are very striking against the light bright green new leaves. In the late fall, the leaves turn a bright yellow. The tree is hardy, and will tolerate low temperatures after dormancy. Even if the top growth is killed by a very severe cold spell, it will renew growth from the roots the following spring. It is an excellent tree to withstand the cold and the heat of the high desert areas of California.

The last of the Threesome is the Fig. With over 200 known varieties, and up to approximately 20 readily available in California, most any palate can be satisfied.

Thank You



Thanks to all who shared in CALIFORNIA GARDEN this year — the San Diego Floral Association Members, Subscribers, Contributors, Illustrators, Writers, Photographers, Neyesesh Printers, Kingston Hall, Readers, Agents, Publishers, the Post Office and those who helped produce, mail and sell it.

We are all looking forward to a great 1987 for CALIFORNIA GARDEN.

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WINTER PROTECTION FOR ROSES

Text and Illustrations by All American Rose Selections

Any discussion of how to have rose bushes survive the vagaries of winter weather is sure to initiate a great deal of controversy. Opinions vary from "Do absolutely nothing," to "Bury them completely." A more moderate approach generally yields the best results, and the following information should give you a basic understanding of how roses are affected by winter weather plus ways to literally help them come through with flying colors next summer.

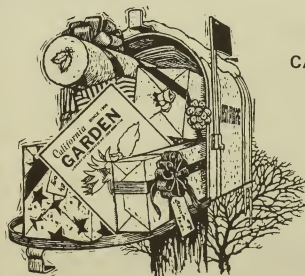
Winter hardiness and injury

Winter hardiness refers to how well a plant can survive low temperatures or recuperate from damage inflicted by low temperatures. Some plants are inherently more hardy than others. For example, not only can many of the old-fashioned roses like the rugosas survive with very little winter protection even in rather cold climates, but so can the newer, improved shrub types like BONICA. Miniaturs and floribundas such as SHOWBIZ, INTRIGUE, and IMPATIENT are a little less hardy. The hybrid

tea and grandiflora roses have the more tender species and varieties in their heritage, but rose hybridizers are working hard to make even these types hardier. Rose hardiness is a very important criteria in the scoring of new roses at All-America Rose Selections test gardens around the country.

Besides a plant's inherent ability to withstand cold, survival is also dependent on how the plant was grown. Injury to a plant is caused by the freezing and thawing of the water within that plant — the more water in the plant, the more extensive the damage. Juicy new growth is most susceptible while woody growth is better able to survive cold. Summer care, therefore, affects how well a rose withstands the cold. Below are some cultural guidelines to follow in order to have your plants in the right condition for the winter months ahead.

Fertilizer encourages new growth, so stop feeding about six to eight weeks before freezing weather, except for the one described later. Begin to reduce watering about this time, too; don't let plants go into drought, though. Avoid late



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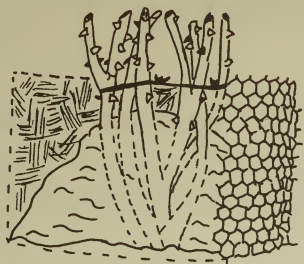
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pruning as it also encourages new growth. Finally, keep plants as free as possible from pest damage. A defoliated plant will not have the necessary food stored to get it through the winter.

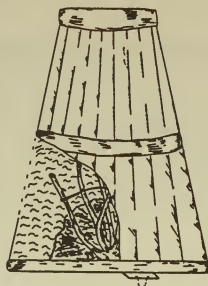


PARTIAL PROTECTION OF ROSES

Trim back canes and tie together. Mound soil or compost at the base; when frozen, cover with loose mulch enclosed in a wire mesh cylinder.

Whatever your area, the following basic steps are applicable for hybrid tea, floribunda, and grandiflora roses. Timing will vary depending on region, but aim for just before hard freezing weather. First, remove all foliage from plants and surrounding soil and burn the debris to minimize

overwintering diseases. Applying a fungal spray is another good preventative measure. Feed with a fertilizer such as 0-10-10, then water the soil well as the roots remain active long after winter begins. Prune back the bushes to about one-half their height and tie the canes together with twine. Now add the mounding material. Do not pull up

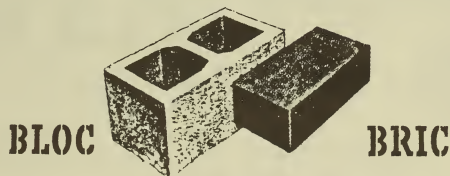


COMPLETE PROTECTION OF ROSES

In areas with temperatures of -15°F or lower, enclose the entire plant, soil mound, and loose mulch in a basket, tar paper cone, or commercially available cap or cone.

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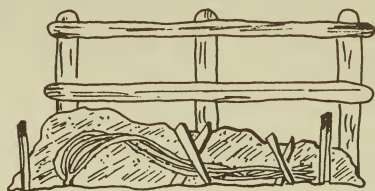
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CLIMBING ROSE PROTECTION

With winter temperatures below -5°F, the large-flowered, repeat-blooming climbers should be detached from supports, laid on the ground, pegged to the soil, and covered with soil or mulch. Use stakes to mark the plant's location.

soil from the rose bed; bring it in from another part of the garden. The disadvantage of using soil is that it must be removed from the rose beds next spring, while compost can be worked into the soil then. Some gardeners prefer to mound with wood chips or ground corn cobs. Wait until the mounds have frozen before applying the loose mulch.

Where temperatures go below -5°F, the large-flowered, repeat-blooming climbers should be mounded at the base and the canes enclosed in pine branches or detached from supports and laid on the ground, pegged to the soil, and covered with soil or mulch.

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Protection methods

The goal in winter protection is to prevent the temperature around the plant from going below a certain point, to lessen the deleterious effect of freezing and thawing, and to keep the branches from whipping about, which in turn causes the roots to loosen.

Where temperatures do not go below 20°F, no winter protection is needed. Areas with temperatures dropping to 0°F will need roses protected by an 8-inch mound of soil, coarse compost, or other material at the base of each plant. In colder regions of the country, this mounding is done deeper (up to 12 inches in the northern plains states), and then 8 to 10 inches of loose mulch such as pine needles, oak leaves, pine branches, or straw is added. It can be contained in wire or tarpaper cyclinders. Where temperatures go below -15°F for extended periods, use caps, cones, baskets, or other covers to completely enclose the plant.

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Book Reviews

By Mary Lou Orphey

THE BLANDFORD GARDENING SERIES by Peter McHoy. 1986. Represented and distributed by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., Two Park Avenue, New York 10016. 5 3/4 x 7 3/4 in. Each book \$6.95 paperback (US) (\$9.95 Canada) and \$12.95 in hardcover (\$17.95 Canada) 128 pages.

WATER GARDENING:

The use of water in a garden adds an extra dimension that is both peaceful and exciting.

This well illustrated book provides the information necessary for the planning and creation of a water garden. Subjects included are planning and making a pond, streams, raised ponds, bubble fountains, barrels and other tubs, fountains and cascades. The chapter on planting the pool contains lists of suitable water plants and advice on how to use them. A dozen kinds of fish for use in a water garden and their care is discussed. The naturalist's pond describes what other creatures are likely to colonize in ponds.

From planning to renovating a water garden, this book will be a helpful guide.

CONTAINER GARDENING:

This book on container gardening will be particularly helpful to people who have small patios, balconies or other restricted space. It provides lots of choices in pots, hanging baskets, window boxes, tubs, troughs and other containers, and describes plants appropriate to use in them.

The author gives advice on watering, feeding and other maintenance of container gardening. There are lists of plants and plant combinations that adapt well to the restricted root space and overcrowding necessary for the colorful flower show one associates with successful container gardening.

ROCK GARDENING:

There are many ways to use rocks in the garden and some are discussed in this informative book. One learns about suitable rockery stone, how to prepare the ground, moving heavy rocks and building a stone wall. There are directions for transforming a sink into a "stone" trough.

Alpine plants described are actually any low, dwarf or slow-growing plants suitable for use with rocks. Several hundred are described and many are photographed. Included in the description is the flowering season, growing habit and uses. There are lists of plants suitable for a beginner's collection, for a trough, walls and a tufa display.

Each book is packed with illustrations and colorful photographs. These handbooks provide a guide to successful gardening.

WILD PLANTS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS

by Scott Atkinson & Fred Sharpe. 1985. The Mountaineers Books, 306 2nd Ave. West, Seattle, WA 98119. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 in. paperback \$7.95 176 pages.

The San Juan Islands have long been noted for their spectacular display of wildflowers. This field guide of the San Juan Islands is an admirable undertaking for the two young botanists. It will become a standard reference guide for those visiting or living in the area.

There is general information on 192 plant species, including wildflowers, shrubs, some trees, weeds and other plants common to the general area. The text is divided into chapters on meadows, open rocky outcrops, woodlands, maritime, fresh water, disturbed sites and Mt. Constitution. The extensive list of every vascular plant found in the area will be of interest to serious students of botany.

The pen and ink illustrations are delicate and precise. An example of the descriptive text is:

"Few-Flowered Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon pulchellum* var. *pulchellum*) . . . Each nodding flower is reminiscent of a falling star, the pinkish purple petals, like flames, trailing the dark point of stamens and style. A striking gold ring, highlighted by soft white above completes the splendid design. Narrow to obovate leaves in a fleshly basal rosette prece-
cede the March-to-May spectacle . . ."



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BEGONIAS Margaret Lee

- clean** up all debris, keep dead leaves and spent blooms removed.
- put** a top dressing of your favorite mulch around plants to replace any soil or mulch washed away by fall rains.
- water** only as needed.
- protect** from beating rains, down-drips, and cold winds.
- lightly feed** winter and early spring bloomers if you do not maintain a year-round feeding program.
- let** tuberous die back on their own; put aside and let rest but sprinkle occasionally.
- spray** for mildew and other pests.

BONSAI Dr. Herbert Markowitz

- protect** deciduous trees that are dormant: locate them where there will be no sudden temperature changes, excessive sun, or wind.
- check watering** schedule. Cut down on water in a normal season.
- watch** dormant trees; they need more water to keep them moist but NOT wet.
- prune** black pines by cutting the candles about half length.
- withhold** fertilizers.
- stop transplanting** trees at this time.
- remove** old leaves, fruit, or seeds from deciduous trees.

BROMELIADS Mary Siemers

- let** the plants rest.
- stop fertilizing** your plants during fall and winter months except those that are kept in a greenhouse.
- do not** water as often when the weather turns cool.
- space** your plants apart to allow adequate air circulation to prevent scale.
- check** plants for snails and slugs; distribute bait around the base of the pot.
- cut** dead leaves to keep plants clean at all times.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS Frank Thrombly

- maintain** a careful watering schedule for the winter growers.
- watch** the weather; heavy rains with cold weather or frost are usually detrimental to the plants.
- water** sparingly if the weather is mild to warm, just enough to keep the fine roots from drying out completely.
- allow** all other varieties to go dormant if the weather forecast predicts cold weather.
- clean** the greenhouse or plant areas so mice are not encouraged to take refuge therein. Mice will eat most succulents including the Euphorbias.
- be vigilant** for snails, slugs, scale, or mealy-bugs.

CAMELIAS E.C. Snooks

- fertilize** with a low nitrogen fertilizer such as 0-10-10 or 2-10-10.
- check** for mites; the most obvious will be red spider mites, but check for bud mites as well. Can use a systemic miticide.
- plan** for transplanting in December or later during the blooming season.
- disbud** to leave only one bud at each terminal and no more than three further down the stem.
- check** all labels to withstand the winter weather.

DAHLIAS Abe Janzen

- cut** old stalks that are brown and dead to about 12 inches from ground.
- leave** tubers in the ground to harden off unless rains are heavy and drainage very poor; then lift the clumps.
- allow** the plants to go dormant by withholding water and fertilizer.
- allow** the clumps to dry before placing in storage.
- store** in vermiculite or other medium in a protected area.
- apply** soil sulphur to any cuts made. If dividing, be sure to leave one "eye" in each division.
- identify** each tuber as you tuck them away by tagging.

EPIPHYLLUM (Orchid Cactus) Frank Granatowski

- allow** the plants to go dormant or semi-dormant by withholding fertilizer with nitrogen.
- protect** plants from exposure to the elements. Frost, hail, and strong winds can cause irreparable damage. Over exposure to harsh winter sunlight can be as detrimental as exposure to hot summer sun.
- transplant** into larger containers plants that are not expected to bloom next

year.

pick mature apples (seed pods) - germination of seeds need fully ripened and matured pods.

collect rain water for the future. Store in covered opaque containers to prevent mosquito larvae and the buildup of algae.

maintain good grooming by pruning out dead, unsightly, and non-productive branches to conserve the plant's energy.

keep containers free of debris. Bait for snails and slugs. A few granules of *Slugetta* placed at base of containers have proved to give effective control, and leave very little or no residue.

FERNS By Ray Sodomka

take off "pups" from staghorn - mount them as they are starting to show growth now (the "pup" should be at least 2" fronds about three inches long.)

water if it does not rain. Check plants under cover or hidden.

be alert for dry hot winds, do not let plants dry out.

plant spore and keep in a warm area.

protect plants at night in frost areas. Cover with newspaper or old sheets or place in garage.

fertilize with one-quarter strength liquid or the slow release pellets and/or granules.

be alert for insects - slugs and snails are active.

check containers to be sure planting mix is at proper level.

FUCHSIAS William Selby

cut back your plants in frost free areas.

take cuttings for next year.

water enough to keep plants from drying out . . . during cool/short days plants absorb little water.

give a light mulch to your plants - don't cultivate deeply as roots are very shallow.

keep containers clean inside and out. Insects winter-over in trash laden containers.

watch for pests, molds, fungus in warm areas.

GERANIUMS Carol Roller

water thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

continue feeding a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water, using less than the recommended strength, often enough to keep plants from developing nutritional deficiencies.

prune any plants which have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on every item which has been cut back. Lanky plants which have been pruned earlier in the fall can be cut back again to produce more compact plants.

tip pinch plants which were pruned earlier in the fall.

make cuttings from the prunings. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather conditions.

continue pest control and disease prevention programs using products according to the manufacturer's directions.

give plants temporary shelter from freezing if temperatures fall too low.

continue to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.

GESNERIADS Michael Ludwig

prepare all plants for winter dormancy.

This with rhizomes and tubers can be uprooted and stored in small baggies.

watch for late dry hot winds and keep plants watered.

place columnneas, nematanthus, and streptocarpus outdoors in a partially sheltered

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area; protect especially from frost.
keep new growth arrested to prevent frost damage.
order next year's plants to get the best plants.

HEMEROCALLIS (Daylilies) Sanford Roberts
remove spent bloomstalks and clean out all dead leaves from clumps.
dig and divide crowded plants. A sharp knife may aid in producing 2 or 3 fan divisions for planting in newly prepared beds or re-worked ground.
generously work amendments into planting areas - aged animal manures, compost, and time-release fertilizers do much to grow and produce striking daylilies.
never use any refuse or tree debris containing tannic acid. Feeder roots cannot survive and plants will fail.
practice good housekeeping - thorough clean garden regimes will not give hiding places for cool weather aphids.
begin planting next year's garden with new cultivars. Order catalogs as January - March are perfect planting season in our climate.

IRIS San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society
keep a regular watering program for all varieties especially if little rain.
clean all beds of dead leaves and weeds - aphids winter-over in debris-filled areas.
spray for insects and disease.
give acid fertilizer (Camellia food) to Japanese and Louisiana iris.
plant the bulbous type of iris.
move Pacific Coast natives in late December.

ORCHIDS Charlie Fouquette
watch for new cymbidium spikes, and stake when length is sufficient.
feed high phosphorus fertilizer to cymbidiums
hose or wash off overhead glass or remove some shade cloth. Shorter days and/or dirty glass or lack of sun will retard flower growth.
keep snail bait out.
let deciduous dendrobiums go dormant for four to six weeks - just keep slightly moist NOT wet.
give light feedings to cypripediums and phalaenopsis as days grow shorter.
repot cattleyas that have outgrown their pots (keep back divisions with good dormant "eyes").
check heaters for gas leaks and exhaust pipes for blockage - remember in order for hot gases to go up flue, there must be a small air inlet somewhere in the hearth.

ROSES Brian Donn
withhold water to help plants become somewhat dormant.
allow plants to rest, especially if you have been pushing them all year.
use dormant spray in December even before pruning.
repeat spraying several times from late December and late January for good pest and disease control.
purchase bare-root roses from your garden center - season may start in December.

VEGETABLES

set out in the garden started plants of lettuce, celery, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and Swiss chard.
remember seed of any kind will germinate slowly and may decay because of low temperatures and wet soil.
prepare soil for plantings after the holidays - you can plant roots of asparagus, rhubarb, artichoke, and plants of cane berries, strawberries, grapes, and deciduous citrus fruit trees.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

continue to plant winter annuals and perennials.
plant bulbs for spring color: daffodils, ranunculus, anemones, scilla, Dutch iris. Tulips and hyacinths may be planted after Thanksgiving. Be sure to refrigerate 4 to 6 weeks before planting.
cut mums about 6 to 8 inches from the ground after blooming.
feed to encourage new growth for next year's additional plants.
apply dormant sprays in December to control pests and disease control.
feed birds-of-paradise. Cut out dead growth from the clump for new growth and improve appearance.
prepare and enrich soil for the bare-root planting of roses and trees in January.
prune and shape holly and pyracantha using the branches for holiday decorations.
give the first spraying to peaches and nectarines for leaf curl during later part of December to prevent any infestation.


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GROW BOXES

By G.F. Enterprises

Nothing is more rewarding than picking choice nutritious fruits and vegetables that you have helped nature produce, especially when you have worked hard to help produce them. There is something wrong when the rewards of that hard work are scanty and inferior.

Now you can have greatly increased yield with minimum effort. You can grow food more easily in less space, with fewer gardening problems than you ever thought possible. How? In Grow-boxes! Grow-boxes are bottomless wooden or cement frames usually 5' x 30' x 8 inches deep but they can be any size. They are filled with a mixture of sawdust and sand or other combinations of inert and organic matter. Together with scientifically balanced nutrients, grow-boxes can be built almost anywhere, on any kind of ground, depleted, alkaline, clay, rocky or hilly. Plants in a grow-box thrive in almost any climate, hot, moderate, or cold.

Grow-boxes extend the growing season because the custom-made soil warms up quickly in the early spring, yet has a cooling effect on roots during very hot weather.

Grow-boxes provide for concentrated food production in limited space, with no special equipment of any kind. Plants grow better in a smaller space by bringing more of the nutrients to the plant. Roots do not need as much room to roam for food. Name it and you can plant it in a grow-box. The grow-box provides ideal soil conditions and adequate nutrition to support close planting and heavy bearing resulting in more food in less space.

Grow-boxes can be utilized successfully anywhere: in a city yard, a country lot or a farm. With essential nutrients added, the soft custom-made soil contains the perfect balance that all plants need for healthy growth. Besides balanced nutrition, the grow-box offers perfect drainage and aeration. It also keeps the ground under the box perpetually moist, allowing roots to take up trace minerals essential for human nutrition. Water penetrates uniformly, easily and quickly. Grow-box gardeners save about 40% water over conventional methods. Weeds are scarce and pull easily from the soft soil.

Dr. Jacob R. Mittleider developed the grow-box method of gardening during 35 years of experimentation. The grow-box method has never failed to produce high quality crops regardless of the type of soil, climate or elevation. The grow-box automatically overcomes the obstacles normally encountered in family gardens. Almost all the factors which result in crop failure are corrected and overcome.

Grow-boxes can be used for large scale production of garden crops or in ones and twos for back yard family gardens. With the same productivity with grow-boxes, you can make gardens of any size. Four boxes properly managed can provide a nearly continuous harvest of food much of the year for a family of four. Ten or more boxes can provide for a family's needs and a large surplus for selling or sharing. Twenty-five to fifty grow-boxes can provide for economic self-sufficiency.

LAGUNARIA PATERSONII

By Carol Greentree

Named for a Spanish botanist, Andrea Laguna, *Lagunaria patersonii*, or Paterson's sugar plum, also honors Colonel Paterson, who introduced the seeds to England from Norfolk Island, in the Antipodes. Related to hibiscus and cotton, this is the tallest of the mallow plants and is sprinkled with lavender-pink blossoms in midsummer. It is also known as the primrose or the cow-itch tree. The latter name perhaps arises from the barbed hairs, inside the decorative fruit capsule, which can irritate the skin. The pods are valued in dried flower arrangements, and open into five sections, revealing attractive seeds.

There are two of these uncommon trees in the sloping lawn west of Presidio Drive in Presidio Park. A two-page guide to the well-selected mature trees of this park is available at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

ARUNDO DONAX

By Carol Greentree

Arundo donax "versicolor" (giant reed) is actually a true grass — one of the largest. Often mistaken for bamboo, it is native to the Mediterranean. Not surprisingly, it came to California missions with the Spanish, and was used as a windbreak, a material for making mats, temporary fencing and ramada-thatch. A favorite novelty plant of the Victorians, the flowers form soft beige-colored plumes. This giant grass naturalizes readily, forming a dense thicket or screen up to twenty feet high. It often lines *zanjas*, or irrigation ditches, in California. Unlike the common all-green form, the "versicolor" variety has distinctive silver-striped leaves. In Old Town a striking patch of "versicolor" borders the fence between the old **San Diego Union** building and the historical museum behind it.

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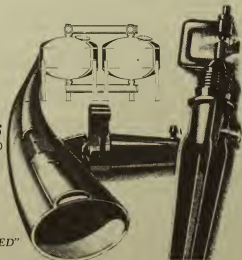
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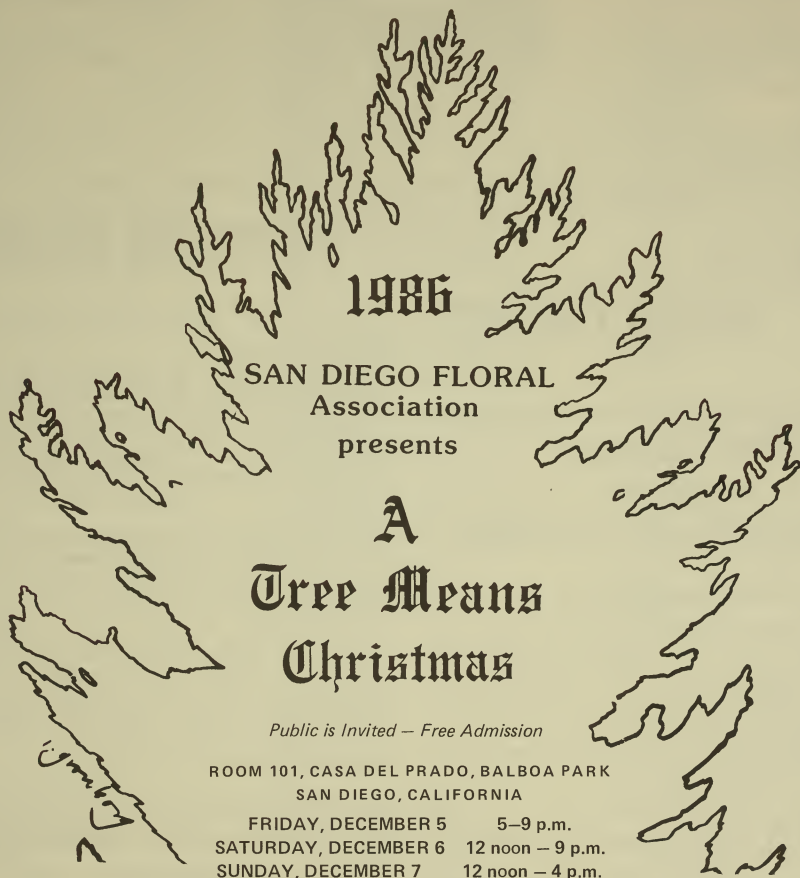
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